

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DEBORAH R. GILG DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

<u>Lincoln Man Sentenced to 262 Months Imprisonment for Possession of Methamphetamine</u> With the Intent to Distribute

July 21, 2011

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that Carlos Ponce, 25, of Lincoln, Nebraska, was sentenced on July 21, 2011, to 262 months in prison by United States District Judge Richard G. Kopf, for possession of 5 grams or more of actual methamphetamine with the intent to distribute. In addition to his prison term, Ponce will serve five years of supervised release following his release from prison.

On July 7, 2010, Ponce was contacted by members of the Lincoln / Lancaster County Drug Task Force in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ponce was found to be in possession of about an ounce of methamphetamine. Inside the vehicle in which Ponce had been riding, the police located several hundred dollars in United States currency, a digital scale with drug residue and other items. A federal arrest warrant was later issued based on that incident and Ponce was arrested in Grand Island by the Grand Island Police Department on September 2, 2010. The Grand Island Police Department reported that they have documented Ponce to be either a member or an associate of the East Side Locos gang. Ponce was convicted following a jury trial on April 20, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Lincoln / Lancaster County Drug Task Force, the Grand Island Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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